Assistance to Earthquake victims of Gujarat and Uttaranchal

1573. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the victims of the earthquake in Uttaranchal and Gujarat States are still suffering for want of financial and other assistance by Union Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken to provide necessary help for their livelihood and life; and

(c) by when the full and final assistance is expected to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The State Government concerned is the first responder to any natural calamity situation and is responsible for undertaking rescue and relief operations including distribution of relief on the ground. For this purpose, a Calamity Relief Funds (CRF) has been constituted for each State with an allocated amount, which is contributed by the Government of India and the State Government in the ratio of 3:1. A Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary is fully empowered to operate the CRF in accordance with the approved items and norms.

If the calamity is of a severe nature, the Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Government by providing additional financial assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), after following the laid down procedure.

In addition to the provision of State CRF, the Government of India had in the wake of the earthquake of Chamoli in 1999 provided to the then Government of Uttar Pradesh, an amount of Rs. 16.68 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) for relief operations during the year 1999-2000. Similarly, in the wake of the earthquake of January, 2001 in Gujarat, the Government of India had provided an amount of Rs. 1467.37 crore to the Government of Gujarat from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002.

No request/memorandum of these State Governments for financial assistance in the wake of these earthquakes is pending with the Government of India.